

ABSTRACT

10 A system for providing a video-on-demand service comprises a repository of
video programmes, an administration facility associated with the repository of
video programmes, one or more television broadcast receivers remote from the
repository, a satellite communication channel capable of carrying a television
broadcast signal
between the repository and the television broadcast receivers, and a television
15 broadcast transmitter capable of broadcasting any selected one of the video
programmes in the repository along the satellite communication channel to the
television broadcast receivers.

20 The administration facility has a register of authorised users of the repository,
and each television broadcast receiver has an associated storage means in the
form of a hard disk drive. The broadcast selected video programme is stored, at
least partially, upon reception thereof, in the associated storage means of the
television broadcast receivers. An activation facility responsive to a request by a
registered user enables the stored selected video programme for viewing on the
25 television broadcast receiver.

A billing facility bills the authorised user as a function of a number of stored video
programmes viewed by that user.